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MESSAGE BY HIS EXCELLENCY ANTHONY THOMAS AQUINAS CARMONA, ORTT, SC, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, ON THE OCCASION OF CHRISTMAS DAY

His Excellency Anthony Carmona S.C., President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Christmas is a blessed Season that allows us to reflect on the things we ought to value the most and the things that truly matter: family, fellowship, friendship, the birth of Jesus Christ and His message of redemption, salvation, hope and forgiveness. Joyous music fills the air and love in all its resplendent forms is everywhere. We sing hymns and Christmas carols and we give gifts and demonstrate our appreciation for those we love in a tangible way. The intangibles are just as important and even more so. Love, mutual respect, compassion and forgiveness ought to be the hallmarks of our Christmas celebration.

As citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, we must continuously aim to take care of each other. There are so many different ways that we can do so and create a positive impact in our communities, not only this season, but throughout the year: donating to charity; participating in a food drive; or volunteering at a home for the less fortunate – any small contribution of time and effort can have a huge impact in someone's life, since not everyone's Christmas wish may be a new toy, a new piece of clothing, or something material. More importantly for some, it may just be the light of a smile, a word of encouragement and support, or a friendly and genuine "Merry Christmas". In each of us, there is that light that exists which we need to recognize and which we must allow to grow, so that the Christmas things we experience at Christmas time can illuminate our daily lives for the rest of the year.

The magic and story of Christmas must not be lost upon us. A child born in a manger and in circumstances of great humility, uniting all manner of men and women. This is the Christ who taught us compassion, painting a vivid picture of love in action and paving our path to salvation. Through His life, He gave the light of love to those who needed it the most and we should all endeavour to do the same.

A New Year 2015 beckons, and it always provides an opportunity for a new beginning in our personal lives: new beginnings and new resolutions. Much may have occurred in 2014 but we must continue to look forward to the positives of the future as we embrace 2015. Let us make this year, a year of enlightenment, progress and personal growth, a year, when we truly live our nation's watchwords of Discipline, Production and Tolerance. Pursuit of these ideals will propel any individual and any country forward. In 2015, be the best at whatever you do and personal success will come.

On behalf of my wife Reema and my children Christian and Anura, best wishes and God's blessings to all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago and all our visitors during this holy Christmas Season, and may you all have a bright and prosperous New Year.

HIS EXCELLENCY ANTHONY CARMONA HIGH IN PRAISE FOR 'DR CALYPSO ROSE'

27th October, 2014

President Anthony Carmona has praised veteran calypsonian Calypso Rose (Ms. McCartha Lewis), 74, who was conferred with an honorary doctorate by The University of the West Indies (The UWI) St Augustine Campus on Wednesday 21st October, 2014 . President Carmona described her as "a tsunami in the fight for equal rights in the labyrinth of culture".

Occasion was the 2014 graduation ceremony exercise at

Pictured: *His Excellency Anthony Carmona S.C., President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago delivers his feature address.*

The UWI. Among those present were St Augustine Campus Principal Prof Clement Sankat, Deputy Principal Prof Rhoda Reddock and Chancellor Sir George Alleyne, who conferred the Degree of Doctor of Letters (D Litt) upon Lewis.

They were joined by Trinbago Unified Calypsonians Organisation (TUCO), President Brother Resistance (Mr. Lutalo Masimba), TUCO PRO Karega Mandela and Calypso Queen 1985 and 2009 Twiggy (Ms. Ann Marie Parks-Kojo).

Calypso Rose sang some of her classics including "Gimme More Tempo", "Fire In Meh Wire" and "I Feel Like Dancing", showing her mettle, impressing with her showmanship.

President Carmona who also received his Honorary Doctorate at the same ceremony, said he was "humbled".

But when the spotlight shifted to Rose, who was born in Bethel, Tobago, he said, "It also gives me particular pleasure to be sharing the stage with one of my favourite performing artistes, fellow Honorary graduate Ms. McCartha Linda Sandy-Lewis - Calypso Rose. I well remember how her 1977 Road March winning calypso 'Gimme More Tempo' pulled even those of us preparing for our final examinations as undergraduates away from the books and into the fetes."

President Carmona added, "Being a southerner, she gave us definitive significance, and a sense of ownership and belonging to the national identity. I remember, 'I going down San Fernando, down dey have plenty tempo. Hatters Steel Orchestra sounding sweet. I going and join San Fernandians and roll on Coffee Street. Give me more, Sweet tempo'. Her march into our culture was even more pivotal."

President Carmona shared his sentiments on equality and human rights in the arena of culture.

He said, "Human rights is often looked at in terms of atrocities and man's inhumanity to man. Equal rights, is often assessed in the context of political and economic subsets, but not necessarily on the basis of culture and art form. The fight for equal rights can, and did take place in the labyrinth of culture, dominated by men who saw women as mere back-up singers and dancers dancing on a stage."

President Carmona added, "In that world of denial, 'Dr Calyspo Rose' was the tsunami. Music can be a force of social change, and Dr McCartha Linda Sandy-Lewis, together with her sister, Singing Francine, changed that cultural demographic that has since spawned many prominent female calypsonians and soca artistes."

He said, "If 'Fire Fire' still has the ability to make even the most staid of us jump up and take a chip, our delight in Calypso Rose's genius should therefore not blind us to the ways in which her music helped to promote the women's social agenda."

Asked to share his sentiments, Brother Resistance, who celebrated his 60th birthday on Friday 23rd October, said, "It is an extremely proud moment for all of us in culture and the arts. We celebrate with Rose and her achievement. She is most deserving of it."

Twiggy added, "When I entered Sparrow's Young Brigade I met her there. She was a friend and mentor to me. I sang Tribute to Rose in 2011. We have been lobbying for her for a while. We are proud of her doctorate. May God continue to bless her."

Mr. Kojo-Parks also said it was amazing that Ms. Lewis was cheering and applauding every graduate. "She didn't get tired. It was her big day. She has a big heart."

Edited from: http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Carmona-high-in-praise-for-Dr-Calypso-Rose-280593752.html

Above: (L-R) Ms. McCartha Lewis - Calypso Rose, His Excellency Anthony Carmona, Prof. Clement Sankat and Chancellor Sir George Alleyne.
At right: Ms. McCartha Lewis - Calypso Rose performs to the delight of the graduands after delivering her acceptance speech.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/theuwi/sets/72157648956358877

MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR, SC, MP ON THE OCCASION OF DIVALI

Fellow citizens of Trinidad and Tobago,

Today, our nation celebrates the joyous occasion of Divali, the festival of lights.

On behalf of the people and Government, I extend to the Hindu community "Shubh Divali". May Mother Lakshmi shower us all with her blessings of prosperity, beauty, grace and wisdom.

Each year during the festival of Divali, several thousand deyas are lit to symbolise the triumph of light over darkness and truth over ignorance and fear.

To Hindu practitioners, the flame of the deya also reflects the flame with resides deep in one's heart and must also be tended to with great care. The glow from that inner flame shines within and radiates outward as truth, compassion, forgiveness and love.

The celebration of Divali, like that of other religious observances, affords us an opportunity to stop, look within and reconnect to our divine nature which is one of love, unity and peace.

However for many of us today, the realities and challenges of modern living have made us self-absorbed and selfish, refusing to understand and accept the views of others.

We cannot allow ourselves and our country to be overtaken by the darkness of selfishness, injustice, pride and intolerance.

We cannot allow the darkness of crime, disease and poverty to impede the development of our remarkable country.

Above: Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar delivers the feature address at the Divali Nagar on October 22, 2014. **Photo courtesy** facebook.com/KamlaPersadBissessar

Therefore, my Government will continue to do all that is necessary and all that is within our power to combat any and every threat to national security and the health and well being of our citizens.

Today, the world faces the darkness of the Ebola virus, which has already left its deadly mark on several African countries and which has now become a real and imminent global threat.

Through the relevant Ministries, agencies, committees and departments, and in collaboration with our international partners, I give my assurance and that of my Government that every possibility and scenario will be considered and prepared for, to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus to Trinidad and Tobago.

Pictured: Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar at 17th Annual Divali Celebrations of the Siparia Women's Association on November 22, 2014. **Photo courtesy** facebook.com/KamlaPersadBissessar

Just as the lights of the deyas brighten the night sky, so too each of us as individuals and collectively in our families, our communities, within organisations, in the workplace and in our places of worship must work and shine together to dispel all forms of darkness within our country. Darkness cannot exist where there is light.

At Divali we recognize the power and noble qualities of the Goddess Lakshmi who is regarded as the embodiment of wealth, prosperity and success.

But we must always remember that Mother Lakshmi does not reside long with anyone who desires her only as wealth.

Sri Lakshmi also represents righteousness, kindness and liberation. Our focus should not merely be on the material but also on the spiritual - the attainment of abundant joy and infinite peace.

Therefore we must answer that higher call of selfless service to community and nation to ensure continued peace, prosperity and harmony in our country.

I ask that the gifts and prayers offered this Divali reflect not only personal desires but also a universal call for tolerance and unity and the positive development of our country.

To our Hindu sisters and brothers, once again I wish you Shubh Divali.

May God continue to bless all of us, and may God bless our great nation, Trinidad and Tobago.

MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR, SC, MP ON THE OCCASION OF CHRISTMAS 2014

Fellow citizens,

On behalf of the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago, I extend a very happy and holy Christmas to our Christian Community.

Today, worldwide, in celebration of the birth of the Christ child, Christian families will come together in churches and at home to commemorate this momentous occasion, when a very special child was given to the world.

So too in Trinidad and Tobago this holy and festive day will bring together friends and family, Christians and non-Christians alike to share wonderful meals, to raise voices in song and to exchange gifts in appreciation of each other.

It is a time for reflection, for mending broken relationships, for forgiveness and unity and for creating more peace in our homes, communities and in the world.

The birth of the Christ child signaled great change for those who believed and renewed their hope for a better world.

The bible tells us "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life".

Perhaps, therefore, one of the most important messages that we can take from Christmas is that of selfless giving.

During the course of the year many of us are so caught up in our own lives that we forget to spare a thought for the vulnerable among us.

However we are fortunate, that in Trinidad and Tobago we have a very strong and committed civil society sector, characterized by several community and faith based organizations, working at the heart of our communities, to bring physical relief, emotional care and professional advice to many of our citizens.

Some of these organizations partner with

Aboved: Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar with a young national in Mayaro. **Photo: guardian.co.tt**

Government to deliver essential social services and programmes throughout the country. Particularly at this time I wish to say a heartfelt thank you to each member of those groups, congregations and organizations for the tremendous work you are doing in our country.

Yet at Christmas the spirit of the season provides an opportunity for all of us to become more compassionate, to show more kindness and love and to rise above the differences and partisan interests that seek to separate us and weaken the unity of our nation.

As individuals, in our families, in the workplace and in our community; our greatest triumphs sometimes come when we work together united by a common purpose, for a common good.

As we prepare for the New Year, I ask each citizen of Trinidad and Tobago to continue to work together to safeguard the socio economic strength of our nation.

My Government remains very clear about our founding principle of people-centred government.

We hold very strongly to the social contract made to our citizens and our promise of prosperity for all.

Therefore we will continue to monitor recent global trends with regard to the price of oil and its impact on our country, making the necessary adjustments to cushion as much as possible negative repercussions for our citizens.

Rest assured that there will be no cuts in the health sector, social programmes as well as national security. As well there will be no cutbacks in recurrent expenditure such as wages and salaries. We will look closely at our non-essential services and if necessary, reduce our financial commitments in this area.

We will continue to be prudent, exercising good business acumen as we make decisions that are in the best interests of all our citizens.

As a nation we must always be prepared for challenges, but I have faith in our skills, knowledge, expertise and resilience to weather the storms which may occasionally occur.

While serious crime has declined during the past year, murders remain a concern for the Government and the citizens of this country.

This means we have to work harder in the coming year to further reduce homicides, and I feel confident that we would achieve this in 2015.

We cannot just sit back and allow this small group of criminals to put fear in us. We must take back our streets and communities. The police have done a good job in getting close to 600 guns off the streets this year. I ask citizens to work closely with the law enforcement authorities in making Trinidad and Tobago a safe country again.

Today, our Christian community celebrates with an open heart the miracle of Christmas.

As a nation let us share in their joy and as one people let us put our faith in God and trust in him to continue to keep our country safe, strong and secure.

I extend a very Merry Christmas to the Christian community and offer my best wishes for a peaceful, prosperous New Year to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

MINISTER BHARATH: T&T SERVICES SECTOR ON A SUSTAINABLE GROWTH PATH

Pictured: Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications, Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath (5th from right) and CEO, Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries (TTCSI), Mrs. Camille Sears-Carter Wells (5th from left) are flanked by the Excellence in Services Awards recipients at the TTCSI 4th Annual Excellence in Service Award Ceremony at the Trinidad Hilton. **Photo courtesy** Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications

On Monday 3rd November, 2014 the Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries (TTCSI) hosted its 4th Annual Excellence in Service Award Ceremony at the Trinidad Hilton and Conference Centre. In delivering the Keynote Address at the Ceremony, Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications spoke of the role of the TTCSI in contributing to the growth and development of the Services Industries in Trinidad and Tobago. He noted 'By the end of 2014, it is projected that the non-petroleum sector contribution to national GDP will increase to 60.9%. Of this, the Services Sector's contribution is projected to be 51.8%. The Services sector provides essential inputs and public services for the economy. Moreover, international trade in services can improve economic performance and provide a range of traditional and new export opportunities'.

The Minister added that 'For this Government, the development of the services sector as well as diversification of services exports is seen as necessary to reposition the domestic economy within the global economy and multilateral trading system. In fact, no other Government in the history of Trinidad and Tobago has been more aggressive in its bilateral trade agenda in seeking to secure expanded market access for local manufacturers and service providers'. Bharath urged the Services Award nominees to maintain their competitive edge to survive in today's unprecedented economic climate and made a call to 'consider the implications of the National Services Week themed 'Building Bridges', in the context of T&T's trade performance which in 2013 continued to remain robust and achieved a total balance of visible trade in 2013 of TT21.2 Billion, whilst trade with CARICOM countries were recorded at a total trade balance of TT18.4 Billion in 2013'.

Mr. Franco Siu Chong, Chairman, Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre (TTIFC) highlighted the mandate of the TTIFC which is to 'attract and facilitate foreign direct investment in the Financial Services Sector and to enhance growth and diversification of the economy by creating sustainable employment through the pursuit of two strategies namely the development of financial institute services and the development and expansion of the countries capital market'. He encouraged the awardees to 'continue to push, think outside the box, and above all, build bridges that will allow T&T to take its rightful place on the global market'.

Mrs. Camille Sears-Carter Wells, CEO TTCSI and Ms. Angela Lee Loy, President TTCSI both joined in congratulating awardees on a job well done and gave the assurance that the TTCSI will continue to identify market opportunities to grow and expand the services sector in Trinidad and Tobago.

Receiving awards at the Awards Ceremony were RSC International Ltd – Best New Service; Inspired Technologies Ltd – Young Service Provider of the year; Trini Trolley. Com – Best Use of Innovation in Services; Dykon Developments Ltd – Service Exporter of the year; Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce – Service Association of the Year; Trinbago Unified Calypsonians Organisation – Service Association of the Year (the Ramesh Sarabjit Award); Mr. Jesse James – Service Provider of the Year (individual) and Massy Technologies – Service Provider of the Year (organization).

For more information on The Children's Life Fund please visit www.clfa.org.tt

The Fund was Created and established in November 2010 by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Children's Life Fund's aegis is to provide urgent relief for children, assisting those who live in the shadow of disease and illness. The Fund has also received support from the renewed charity medical Schriners Children's Hospital. In addition, all Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament contribute 5% of their salary to the Fund.

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Trinidad and Tobago High Commission (Children's Life Fund)

Barclays Bank, West Halkin Street, London SW1X 8JE

NEWS

WORLD'S HOTTEST PEPPERS PRODUCED AND SOLD BY CARDI

30th October, 2014

Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute in Trinidad and Tobago (CARDI) has been supplying Caribbean farmers with quality hot pepper seeds for the past twenty years. Currently, four main varieties are produced by CARDI and supplied through its distributor, Caribbean Chemicals and Agencies Ltd, to agro retail outlets from Belize in Central America; Cayman Islands and Jamaica in the North-Caribbean through the Windward and Leeward Islands; Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago in the Southern Caribbean; and Guyana and Suriname in the South American Continent under the CARDI Quality Seed and Cari Seed Brand.

This activity is led by CARDI's Revenue Generating Unit which was established in 2013 to supplement the Institute's operating cost. The Unit has since established eleven (11) Revenue Centres in its first phase. Four Revenue Centres have been generating revenue from authentic and purified hot pepper seed production through sale of the CARDI varieties: Scorpion, Moruga Red, Yellow Scotch Bonnet and West Indies Red from its seed production centres in Antigua & Barbuda, Belize and Trinidad and Tobago, in over 2,000 acres.

In February 2014, CARDI launched the sale of purified and authentic Scorpion Hot Pepper seed, the world's second hottest pepper recorded at 2,000 000 Scoville units through its distributor.

CARDI Quality Seeds are produced in the most isolated and protected areas of Antigua & Barbuda and Belize, where selection of our seed by our breeders is done through a rigorous selection process to keep out Gemini viruses, phytophthora root rot, anthracnose and other pepper diseases. Rigorous rogueing is done to get seeds only from true to type mother plants. Rapid extraction and seed processing methods ensure high germination rates and viability. In addition, seeds are treated against viral particles, fungi and pests and all micro-organisms.

Pictured: CARDI Hot Pepper packaging. **Photo:** CARDI

The World renowned improved yellow Scotch Bonnet variety (300,000 (SHU) Scoville Heat Units) with parent lines bred in Jamaica for higher tolerance to Gemini and Poty Viruse, is a super-hot quality Caribbean Scotch Bonnet type pepper which has a bright yellow berry colour when mature and can also be marketed as a smooth skin dark green pepper. The fruit has a distinct bonnet shape and is suited for fresh fruit export and hot sauce production; the flavour is mild, but pungent and is also hotter than Habaneros. It is an ideal variety for yellow pepper mash production, drying into flakes, roasting, and production of jelly, chutneys, jerk seasonings, or fresh chops.

The Revenue Generating Unit expects to assist CARDI in achieving its mandate, primarily by increasing the availability and usage of CARICOM's Member States' indigenous planting material to the wider Caribbean farming community; and providing sustainable technology, technical support and monitoring systems developed by CARDI to the Region's agribusiness sector.

Two Trinidad and Tobago footballer challenges an Eucador footballer for the ball in the Women World Cup qualifer game. **Photo: AP/Reuters**

TAKE A BOW, WOMEN SOCA WARRIORS

by **ALVIN CORNEAL**

4th December, 2014

Winning is a joyful experience in almost the same way that losing provides essential lessons for the future.

Unfortunately, despite a courageous and sometimes exciting display of football, the chips did not fall in quite the place that their efforts deserved.

I cannot help but feel a sense of pride for being among the thousands of my people coming together to champion a cause which identifies our love for each other on this

sporting occasion.

The game of football is powerful enough to bring a nation together, and if you doubt me, ask the members of the strike squad.

Today, the women soca warriors may be bemoaning the fact that they did not capitalise upon the chances which they created, as often as five times in the first half and another three in the second.

Strange enough, being the realist that I like to be when it comes to football matches, my predictions for Tuesday's match could have been one where creativity and ball possession by Ecuador would be our team's biggest challenge.

Pictured: Trinidad and Tobago Women's National Football team a.k.a. "Women Soca Warriors". **Photo courtesy: Trinidad and Tobago Football Association Media**

It was actually the other way around. The movement of the ball from the T&T defence to midfield was smooth, cohesive and lent itself to a formidable unit which had the prospect of achieving its objective—a goal—but it was not to be.

For those of us who followed this team during the qualification process, much of what we saw from central Defenders Arin King and Rhea Belgrave, our playmaker captain Maylee Attin Johnson in midfield and two speedy and skillful strikers in Kennya Cordner and Ahkeela Mollon, offered to this country a wonderful chance of reaching to Canada.

The assessment was accurate. Our central defenders were excellent, both in their communicative ability and responsibilities of winning the ball in a most organised fashion.

At no time did the Ecuadorians appear to create any serious challenge in the first half, especially as the endurance, intensity and ball distribution of Johnson, who ran from one penalty area to the next marshalling her forces into competence.

For the better part of the match, there was evidence of a victory, especially after a half time team discussion produced the necessary corrective measures.

The similar type of game which was based upon the striking power of Cordner needed some type of alternate approach.

The brilliant young striker had missed some early first half opportunities which seemed to have affected her confidence and the time was ripe for the technical staff to change the method of attack, using the build up from the flanks to bring the number of crosses which were effected in the first half.

Cordner has the speed in short distances to outrun the slow turning Ecuador central defence, so it was necessary to bring her into centre forward position and force her opponents to make adjustments.

Incidentally, this quick footed striker reminded me of former national striker Sammy Lewellyn, one of my favourite strikers of years. Two superb goalscorers.

The second change that was necessary was to take the ball into the opponent's half of the field, so that they will always be required to concentrate on defensive play.

With tired legs on both teams, the path to the opponents' goal would have been shorter if they were closer to Ecuador's penalty area.

From my assessment these factors were lacking, perhaps not because of the coach but lack of implimentation by the players. There were some well served corners and flank free kicks by Karyn Forbes, Arin King, and Mariah Shade which met with too few scoring options because of insufficient players available in the box.

The Warriors had gained maximum possession, more attacking freekicks and a full house at the Stadium as witness, but ended without that all important goal.

Eventually, an unnecessary foul committed just outside the left portion of the penalty area, minutes past full time, saw Kamika Forbes leaving the goalline to catch a crossed ball which she could not reach, and especially when two T&T defenders were well placed to avert danger, causing a terrible anticlimax to what could have been the most memorable sporting day in our history and especially in women's football.

The process is not completed and I would hope that the financial powers that be will appreciate some more investment in the same direction, when the TTFA can decide to play their own group in Canada 2015.

It is simple. Get four teams to accept friendlies three weeks from the start of the Fifa World Cup 2015.

A choice of Germany, France, Brazil and Argentina would again prove to us that the road to a world cup final may not be far away. It will also prepare our teams for the Olympic qualifiers. This must be done now.

Well done, girls, you have made us proud.

http://www.guardian.co.tt/sport/2014-12-04/take-bow-women%E2%80%88soca%E2%80%88warriors%E2%80%88

NEWS FROM THE MISSION

T&T NATIONALS CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL OF DIVALI IN THE HIGH COMMISSION

On Saturday 2nd November, 2014 a diverse audience of over 200 Trinidad and Tobago nationals residing in London and surrounding areas, came out in their numbers to participate in the celebration of the festival of Divali at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London. The celebration took the form of an elaborate Hindu ceremony, featuring traditional thanksgiving rites.

At this year's celebrations, the programme included: Welcome remarks and message from the Honourable Prime Minister delivered by Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner; Opening and Closing Prayers read by Mrs. Omadaye Sawh; Prayer to Mother Lakshmi read by Shree Krishna Ragbir; Lakshmee Vandanaa sung by Mr. Gobin Dwarika; Bhajans sung by Mr. Rajesh Ramkhalawan and Mr. Gobin Dwarika; and Vote of Thanks delivered by Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, Tourism Attaché.

A traditional East Indian dinner followed the formal part of the evening.

PICTURED: 1) Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner addressing the audience; **2)** Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie, First Secretary; **3)** Mrs. Omadaye Sawh reads the opening prayer; **4)** Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner lighting the deyas; **5)** Shree Krishna Ragbir reading the Prayer to Mother Lakshmi; **6)** Mr. Gobin Dwarika accompanied by Mrs. Omadaye Sawh singing Lakshmee Vandanaa;

7) Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, Tourism Attaché; **8)** Mr. Rajesh Ramkhalawan singing a bhajan; **9-12)** Nationals dressed in traditional Indian wear; **13)** Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner chats with some of the young nationals.

PICTURED: 14) Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner meets two retired nationals who served as Judges in the International Criminal Court. ; **14-25)** Nationals attending Divali festivities.

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NEWS / THE MISSION

ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER HOSTS DIPLOMATIC CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

PICTURED: **1)** Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commiswioner welcomes Mrs. Esther Bello, PA to the Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Haiti; **2-3)** Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commiswioner welcomes guests; **4)** Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commiswioner welcomes Mr. Ancil Barlay; **5)** Mr. Michael Guy, Second Secretary and Vice Consul, The Bahamas High Commission, London, Ms. Janet Charles, Acting High Commissioner, Dominica High Commission and Mrs. Rochford; **6)** H.E. Steve Katjiuanjo High Commissioner, Namibia and Mrs. Karen Thomas, Trade and Business Facilitator; **7)** Ms. Keisha Rochford-Hawkins, Second Secretary; **8)** Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commiswioner toasts with guest to the Christmas season and New Year; **9)** Mr. David Hinkson, Immigration Attaché and Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, Tourism Attaché; **10)** Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commiswioner and guests; **11)** (at right) Mr. David F. Roberts, Founder of CaribDirect.com and guest; **12)** (3rd from left) Mr. Deodat Maharaj, Deputy Secretary-General (Economic and Social Development) at the Commonwealth Secretariat chats with guests; **13)** CSI Steelband lead by Mr. Brent Holder OBE, provided part of the nights festive entertainment. **14-15)** Guests enjoying the reception. **Photos: Mr. Brian Quavar**

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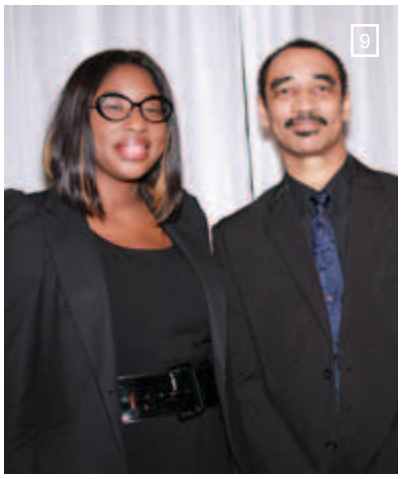
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FAREWELL TO MS. NICKESHA SMITH, SECOND SECRETARY

Ms. Nickesha Smith, Second Secretary speaking at the farewell staff lunch in her honour on 10th October 2014.

On 10th Octocber, 2014, the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London, bid farewell to Ms. Nickesha Smith, Second Secretary. Ms. Smith has truly been an asset to the Mission and we wish her all the best as she continues to serve Trinidad and Tobago.

JANUARY 2015

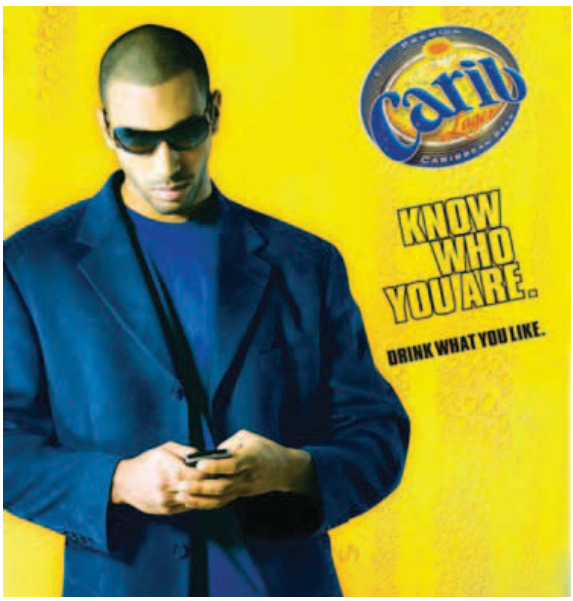
FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES INTEREST RATES

CURRENCY	BUYING	SELLING	CASH
Great British Pound	9.535	9.949	8.915
United States Dollar	6.295	6.35	6.000
European Euro	7.045	7.271	6.350
Canadian Dollar	4.989	5.254	4.644

Interest Rates (%): 10 January 2015	
Discount Rate	5.5
Special Deposit Rate	0.00
Repo Rate	7.75
Prime Lending Rate	7.78
Overnight Interbank	0.25

Information based on Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago figures at time of print

http://www.central-bank.org.tt



EYE ON TRADE

INVESTT CELEBRATES A SECOND YEAR OF SUCCESS IN 2014

Pictured: InvesTT President, Mrs. Racquel Moses receives UNCTAD IPA award for excellence in promoting foreign direct investment for sustainable development from Didier Drogba. Photo courtesy: InvesTT

InvesTT Trinidad & Tobago (InvesTT) was established in 2012 as the national Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) and is the first point of contact for investors seeking opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago. Aligned to the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications, InvesTT has already made its mark in the international arena as a significant player in investment promotion. It is currently ranked within the top 20% of an estimated 200 IPAs in the world by the World Bank.

During its first year of operation InvesTT won an award for Regional Best Practice Website from the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA). In October at the World Investment Forum 2014 in Geneva, InvesTT copped 1 of the prestigious UNCTAD Investment Promotion Awards for Excellence in Promoting FDI for Sustainable Development. The IPA's submission was based on having convinced Gravita India Ltd., a publicly held entity from Jaipur, India which specializes in the recycling and trade of lead, to choose Trinidad & Tobago as its most recent investment destination. With 8 wholly owned international operations in Africa and Central America, the plant in Trinidad will represent Gravita's centre of excellence for its innovative approach to the delivery of holistic lead recycling solutions.

The significance of this investment lies in the potential growth of the country's Clean Technology sector which has been on the government's radar as an essential element in the drive to diversify the economy. The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar, extended personal congratulations to InvesTT as she declared the award a reaffirmation of the organisation's vision, dedication and innovation. Other non-energy sectors identified for development within InvesTT's remit are Agribusiness, Creative Industries, Downstream Energy, ICT, Financial Services, Manufacturing, Maritime Industries and Tourism.

Another significant milestone for InvesTT in October 2014 was the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Trinidad Dry Dock Company Limited (TDDCL), for the development and utilization of the Sullivan Island Dry Docking Industrial Complex. Once executed, this investment will greatly enhance the country's Maritime Industries in the areas of shipbuilding and ship repair. Although the estimated cost of the project is over US$2.1 billion, it is anticipated that it will create approximately 18,500 local jobs in construction, operations and ancillary services.

A further major investment opportunity currently in InvesTT's portfolio is the development of a Solar Technology Park in Trinidad and Tobago. This represents a proposed investment of US$1.8 billion in 4 new industrial plants. A recently concluded feasibility study has shown that an ultralow cost of production can be achieved in the manufacture of photovoltaic panels, float glass, polysilicon and metallurgical silicon in Trinidad and Tobago. Each of the plants represents a lucrative investment opportunity offering substantial returns to investors through the manufacture and export of high quality solar panels destined for the Americas.

As it moves into its third year of operation, InvesTT will continue to capitalise on Trinidad and Tobago's competitive advantages to attract potential investors. Our twin island state prides itself as a lucrative investment destination based on its:

- 1st Place Ranking for cost effectiveness in Central America and the Caribbean by fDi magazine (2013)
- Ideal location as a gateway to Latin America and a nearshore hub for North America
- Attractive incentive and tax regime
- Skilled English-speaking workforce;
- World class infrastructure in port capacity, road networks and telecommunications.

Investors are encouraged to visit our website at **http://www.investt.co.tt/** or request more information on InvesTT and Trinidad and Tobago at **info@investt.co.tt** or **+1 868 638 0038.**

EYE ON TRADE

THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CONCERT MUSIC FROM THE CARIBBEAN

by **DOMINIQUE LE GENDRE**
COMPOSER, FORMER ASSOCIATE ARTIST OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON

The National Academy for the Performing Arts of the University of Trinidad and Tobago was the host and venue of this second symposium on concert music from the Caribbean held between the 8th and 11th November 2014. This year's session was put together by Adam Walters, assistant Professor of Music at Academy of Performing Arts (APA) and was inspired by the first such symposium that was organised in Nassau, Bahamas in February 2013 by Professor Christine Ganglehoff from the College of The Bahamas.

These symposia have arisen from Professor Ganglehoff's extensive research on music from the Caribbean region; research that has now been compiled in the form of a two-volume bibliography entitled Art Music by Caribbean Composers. The first symposium was convened with the express desire of engaging scholars, musicians, composers and students in conversations, performances and presentations on the subject. We, the composers of the Caribbean will benefit hugely from Professor Ganglehoff's bibliography and research because these peer reviewed records of our existence and our work are the international measures of credibility and this sort of research can only come from the Caribbean region.

For those of us composers who attended the first conference in The Bahamas, the effect was that of an electric charge of energy that has harnessed a momentum amongst a small core of composers most of whom met for the first time in The Bahamas in 2013. The composers are: Peter Ashbourne from Jamaica, Carlos Carillo from Puerto Rico, Christian Jusitilien and Quincy Parker from The Bahamas, Adam Walters and myself from Trinidad and Tobago. Creating a space where Caribbean composers could see and hear each other's work, meet and have conversations about processes, inspiration, likes and dislikes and the nuts and bolts of bringing new music to audiences was like bringing water to someone who suddenly realises they are suffering from dehydration.

That there are composers of concert music from the Caribbean, with the exception of Cuba, is of itself a miracle considering that composers of the independence generation and older have come from a very limited and restricted musical education. For any composer or musician who was educated wholly in the English speaking Caribbean islands - again unlike Cuba whose music education is on par with the education imparted by the Russian tradition - embarking on musical studies in either Europe or North America is a difficult encounter with how little we have been taught and how much there is to catch up on and most probably will never be caught up with. Those of us who have dedicated our lives to the composition of Art music have done so knowing that it is unlikely that our music will be heard by wide audiences however much we aspire to this. Earning a living as a composer means accepting that one will spend most of one's life either teaching or writing music that has very little to do with what we truly want to write. And yet….

Evolving as a Caribbean composer is actually a very interesting experience of pioneering something new that is constantly evolving from within young independent nations. The thrust of our newly independent islands focused on physical nation building: education, housing, health, industry, agriculture, tourism, infra-structure and identifying, naming and validating aspects of our traditional culture that embraced Carnival and national festivals as emblematic and representative of our identities. The arts such as poetry, literature and visual arts have taken their place solidly in our islands with many of our poets, writers and artists achieving international recognition and fame. Even our music especially in so far as the invention and development of the steelpan are concerned, has achieved worldwide acclaim. And yet…to what extent do Calypso, soca, dance-hall, reggae, salsa etc. express the human condition in its absolute fullness? And how do we know that we are not being expressed musically as fully as we would want to hear ourselves?

Over the course of the first symposium held in the Bahamas and attended religiously by the students of the College of The Bahamas, on hearing my string Quartet "Riff for Strings and Snare drum" one of the students looked at me incredulously during the Question and Answer session held after the concert and said "I never imagined that it was possible for us to sound like we really are. I thought that if we were going to write classical music, we would have to sound like Mozart or one of those famous composers from the past".

For these students, the encounter with Caribbean composers and our works was the first encounter with "permission to be yourself" and they liked what they heard. They heard sounds and music that they recognised from the classical music traditions but these also included sounds, rhythms, instrumentations, colours and harmonies that evoked the richness and the complexity as well as the specificity

of time within these islands. These students also heard how the Caribbean inspired the work of English composer Adam Walters through his "Little Red Riding-Hood" suite and this year's "River Of Freedom" written as a tribute to the Merikins and performed by the UTT musicians conducted by Kwame Ryan.

In the Bahamas, two of my compositions, "Le Genie Humain" and "Riff for Strings and Snare" were performed to full concert halls, while in Trinidad, the final standing – room only concert of the symposium with works by eleven composers included the dance suite from "Jab Molassie" my new music-theatre work; the symposium was timed to coincide with the world premiere and performances of "Jab Molassie". All of this meandering is really to bring home the point that there is an audience for this concert music; we the composers are discovering the existence of this audience through these symposia and more importantly we are discovering the impact of the music on the audience through these performances of music written by Caribbean and international composers inspired by the Caribbean.

What is the significance of the audience to composers? It makes our work worthwhile and it confirms to us that our way of translating the experience of life resonates with the audiences of the Caribbean as well as to audiences beyond the region. This is a significant achievement in the evolution of our culture as young nations. In Trinidad, over the past 20 - 30 years, classical music was considered the music of the Colonial era and as such was actively disregarded, with the exception of the annual Music Festival which interestingly enough is a competition; competition in music is a contradiction of itself since music is written to be played amongst groups of people and not against each other. To get back to the significance of Classical music or Art music or Contemporary music according to whatever terminology resonates with the reader….to disregard and dismiss classical music is to dismiss one of the most important forms of expression in the history of our islands, Trinidad and Tobago, without which there would have been no Calypso, no chutney-soca, no soca, no parang, no music festivals and certainly no Carnival. We cannot escape nor deny our history nor can we airbrush away the bits that we don't like. The marvel and magic of the Caribbean is the extent to which beauty has been created from adversity as opposed to waging war. What helped many slaves survive the middle passage crossing was singing and dancing. Their music which was literally in their skin, put together with the music of the colonial masters gave rise to some of the greatest musical gifts that the entire world continues to enjoy: Reggae, Dance-hall, Calypso, Soca, Salsa, Cumbia, Merengue, Biguine, Zouk, Compass and many more dance and music forms. None of these forms would have existed without the forced marriage of their ancestors: the music of Africa and classical music especially the dance suites and religious music of the Catholic and Anglican churches from which many of these 20th and 21st Century popular

Ms. Dominique Le Gendre, Jab Molassie production participating in UTT's Music Symposium.
Photo: Maria Nunes

music forms derive. Think then just how much more could have also been achieved if Classical music had also been allowed to flourish without the taint of being the music of the "colonials' and fuddy-duddies. And think also on the loss to the world had similar arguments regarding the use of the languages of the colonial masters prevented Derek Walcott, Martin Carter, V.S. and Shiva Naipaul, Edouard Glissant and many more, from bestowing upon us their poetic and literary gifts, so inspiring us to attempt to follow in their footsteps confidently expressing our translation of the world.

Now that UTT is celebrating its tenth Anniversary and that the Academy of Performing Arts has just ushered in a new batch of students in the wake of those graduating, the symposium is the ideal place from which to reflect on all of the possibilities that lie ahead and to maintain genuine discussions between composers, their teachers, students and orchestras, support creations of new work, support and maintain instrumental teaching and our newly formed National Philharmonic orchestra, encourage and stimulate exchange and collaboration between the Academy and other Academies throughout the Caribbean, foster collaborations between the Academies, UWI's Creative department, independent Art organisations such as Calabash foundation for the Arts in Trinidad and the decision makers within the Ministry of Arts and Multiculturalism.

What is sorely missing from this growing world of Art music of the Caribbean is a publishing house prepared to take on the task of publishing composers whose work is proving popular with audiences and students in the Caribbean and beyond. Our musical offerings do indeed enrich the centuries-old world of the European tradition of Classical music that also belongs to us. A similar sentiment with regards the literature and poetry of the Caribbean was clearly and beautifully articulated by Vanni Bianconi, artistic Director of the Babel literary festival of translation in Bellinzona Switzerland this year in his Manifesto for the Antilles:

- Manifesto for a less isolated archipelago
- Manifesto for a less insular archipelago
- Manifesto for a more culturally integrated archipelago

"Nowhere in the world can be found such a wide, ancient and rooted mestizaje of cultures that came together almost at once as in the Antilles. The Antilles can be considered a global village ante-litteram where the whole world can look back to catch glimpses of its future. And nowhere in the world do writers show such a liberating attitude towards language, reaching out to grab what is there and what is theirs, considering standard language, nation language and Creole, spoken and written forms, simply as the flexible borders of a continuum where the most effective materials for literary creation can be found. Nowhere in the world are separate tongues made into language on such a large scale and with such literary results.

Moreover, this linguistic freedom is an indicator of something that these writers share on an even deeper level, even coming from countries thoroughly isolated from one another. Namely, a profound attachment to their local reality: they work with spoken elements to bring to the page the living voice of their people. Yet, what is extraordinary is that their people are at once both local and international. They are as rooted in their Creole cultures as they are rooted in the European traditions, and in African or Indian or Chinese or Syrian influences. All of this is one."

What is equally missing is support for recordings of all of this new music that is being created and performed by the best sort of collaborations of the teaching staff of APA and our own Trinidadian musicians and singers. This is where Trinidad and Tobago could be taking the lead in the world of Classical music: creating and stimulating the market with recordings and publications of new works that speak to audiences the world over. Multi-culturalism comes naturally to us since we have been practising it for hundreds of years so we don't even need to use the name but we can certainly take the lead in showing how it works, where and when it works.

After the final concert of the symposium, the core of composers and invited delegates along with Professor Ganglehoff, Adam Walters and the musicians gathered for a drink and we talked excitedly of what next year's symposium could be. The excitement came from the simple fact of having spent four days hearing the banquet of original new music pouring out of the Caribbean. Cleveland Williams from the Bahamas' Ministry of Tourism was so inspired by this symposium and the performances of Jab Molassie that he saw, that he set about immediately planning and programming performances of the new works in festivals that he is planning.

Amongst us composers, we know that on a worldwide stage, we create more of an impact and have more voice if we speak together and so we are looking at ways of programming each other's works and introducing the works of our colleagues to European and North American conductors and ensembles. We will maintain contact with each other and we all gain strength from being around each other and having that special time to talk about different aspects of being composers either from or in the Caribbean. What matters and what counts is the respect, encouragement and curiosity we all have for each other's work and I for one am grateful to Professor Christine Ganglehoff who kick-started this gathering in 2013 that brought us all together to present our works to our new audiences. I am also grateful to her for putting together the comprehensive bibliographies of Caribbean Composers for the simple reason that without these, we Caribbean composers would not be named and would continue to remain ignored. In taking on the baton this year in Trinidad, Adam Walters has opened up the discussion and enlarged the list of composers. Those at the head of UTT should be proud of this initiative and I hope that they will truly support the radical and unostentatious musical innovation that is coming out of the Academy of the Performing Arts.

Pictured: Malcolm Reid, BSc., MSc., MBA, MBCI, CBCP, CPP, CORP, CFE, CISMP. **Photo: www.brisonltd.com**

MALCOLM REID SELECTED AS JUDGE FOR THE BCI GLOBAL AWARDS

The BCI Global Awards recognise the outstanding achievements of Business Continuity professionals and organizations worldwide and pay tribute to some of the finest talent in the industry. Becoming a winner of a BCI Award gives international recognition for hard-earned achievements and is considered a great accolade within the BC profession. Mr. Malcolm Reid, a national from Trinidad and Tobago was selected to serve on the panel of Judges

The BCI Gala Dinner and Global Awards was held on Wednesday 5th November at the Science Museum in London.

Malcolm is the Managing Director of Brison Limited, a leading Continuity and Risk Management firm based in Trinidad and Tobago. He has over 15 years' experience in Corporate Management and Consulting.

He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point where he attained a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Management, he also holds a Master of Business Administration from the Henley Business School, University of Reading, United Kingdom and a Master of Science in Information Assurance from Norwich University, USA.

He possesses multiple peer-reviewed certifications in the area of Risk, Security, Fraud Detection and Resilience. He has also been a speaker at a number of international conferences.

His experience included such roles as Commissioned military officer, Head of Security at international telecommunications and financial services companies, Consultant and Trainer. He is the consultant responsible for the UNDP project that assessed, ranked and mapped the Critical Infrastructure framework of Trinidad and Tobago.

Malcolm has worked on published International security and Business Continuity standards for the ANSI/ ASIS partnership and has facilitated training programs in the areas of Business Continuity and Security.

Malcolm also serves as a member of ASIS International Crisis Management and Business Continuity Council among other leading roles in the areas of Security, Fraud Detection and Risk management.

For more information on the Business Continuity Institute please visit: www.thebci.org

THE INTERNATIONALIZATION IMPERATIVE PT 2 – THE EVOLUTION OF TT'S EXPORT CAPABILITIES

During its more than 50 years of self government, T&T has attempted policy interventions to build a diversified industrial sector. The origins of these frameworks were rooted in the particular historical circumstances that prevailed at the time: local and international economic conditions, social and political forces. Each policy era resulted in distinctive environments for firms, influencing both the nature and availability of resources. The result has been mixed with the emergence of a globally competitive energy industry and a regionally oriented sector, consisting primarily of import substituting firms. T&T's experience is comparable to many other developing countries that have attempted structural transformation from commodity based economies to industrial nations.

T&T was initially an exporter of agricultural products and crude oil that attempted a structural transformation of its economy by building global enterprises. Several policy frameworks have been implemented during the period of self government with varying results. The first was an attempt to attract MNEs to T&T in order to bring technology and market access, based on the Industrialization by Invitation framework developed by Sir Arthur Lewis.

Supported by increasing oil revenue in the early 1970s, the country then attempted to build capabilities by raising barriers to imports in order to encourage the development of local firms as well as develop a petrochemical sector, a process of Resource Based Industrialization (RBI). A number of entrepreneurs opened manufacturing firms, in some cases several competitors existed for the same market (De Castro and Farrell 1987). A drop in commodity prices led to a deep recession in T&T. With the guidance of the IMF, T&T began to open its economy, dismantling its import barriers. During this period of Structural Adjustment, local firms were encouraged to retool and export and met with some success in export markets. Remaining trade barriers were removed in the early 90's in a period of Trade Liberalization and later increases in petrochemical prices and capacity caused a rapid growth in GDP. Finally, the country began pursuing a strategy of International Integration in which a number of trade agreements were signed to provide market access for T&T's products.

The manufacturing sector was the target of many of these interventions which affected the availability of resources to T&T firms or munificence (Castrogiovanni 1991). This environmental property influences on one hand, the ability of existing firms to survive and grow, on the other, the number of new entrants (Randolph & Dess 1984). In periods of high munificence, organizations may engage in strategies other than simply survival (Brittain and Freeman 1980), and adopt a diverse range of characteristics. In environments with low munificence or hostility, competition for resources may reduce profits. Under these conditions, firms engage in less experimentation, as there are less free resources (Singh, House et al. 1986).

The RBI era could be classified as a munificent era, with both a high level and secure access to resources. The outcome was rapid growth in all manufacturing indicators: number of firms, new entrants, exports and employment. While incomes fell in the Structural Adjustment (SA) era, export support programs helped manufacturers retool and later opening of the Caribbean market enabled the non energy sector to continue growing, albeit at a lower rate. Recent economic growth however, has not corresponded with any significant expansion in the number of firms, net employment or exports. The manufacturing sector has remained relatively stagnant in size during the later Trade Liberalization (1991 to 2000) and International Integration (2001 -) eras and have shifted their emphasis from pursuing global markets to focusing on the Caricom region. This suggests that the manufacturing sector has not developed capabilities that can be profitably deployed outside of Caricom.

The next article in this series will summarize the current practice in T&T exports.

Dr. Nigel L. Williams is a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago and Senior Lecturer at Bournemouth University.

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Rory Scott Russell, CEO of Range Resources

Image top: CEO, Rory Scott Russell at the site visit in Trinidad

Image above: Energy Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Kevin Ramnarine meets Range Resources team in Trinidad

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CONSULAR + STUDENT SERVICES

TTHC STUDENTS' CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

Pictured: 1) Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner addressing the students**; 2)** Ms. Keisha Rochford-Hawkins, Second Secretary; **3)** Students filling their plates with traditional christmas foods**; 4)** Team members participating in the 'Univeristy Challenge Quiz' raise their hands in excitment to answer the questions; **5)** Team 4 representative collect's the University Challenge Quiz first place prize for the team; **6-10)** Some of the *Trini got Talent* Karoke competitors;

Pictured: 11) Karoke competition prize winner and Ms. Claudia Cupid, Co-Master of Ceremonies; **12)** Ms. Keisha Rochford-Hawkins, Second Secretary presents Mr. Keon Gangadeen, Co-Master of Ceremonies on the night; **13)** Acting High Commissioner Herbert chats with students about the finer points of Christmas desserts black cake and pone; **14)** Students enjoying the festive christmas decorations and atmosphere.

CULTURE + TOURISM

T&T TAKES CENTRE STAGE AT WTM 2014

The Trinidad and Tobago booth at World Travel Market (WTM) in London, continues to be a major attraction at the international trade show with sporting personalities Brian Lara and Dwight Yorke, as well as the launch of a new destination book and mobile travel app attracting crowds of visitors.

Both Lara and Yorke were part of a high level delegation, led by Mrs. Samdai Rampersad, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and including Mr. Umesh Rampersad, Chairman, Tourism Development Company (TDC); Mr. Keith Chin, Chief Executive Officer, TDC; senior officials from the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) and other tourism stakeholders; representing Trinidad and Tobago at the prestigious travel and tourism trade show which kicked off on November 3rd, and closed November 6th in the ExCeL Exhibition Centre, London.

At WTM some of the major objectives of the delegation were to promote the niches, such as Eco-tourism, culture and heritage and the city of Port of Spain that have been identified by the Tourism Development Company as part of the thrust for industry growth. The delegation also promoted local festivals and events to potential visitors looking for a warm weather destination while encouraging new business.

Major activities at the booth included the launch of a new book on Trinidad and Tobago written by Ivor Skinner entitled 'Enchanting Trinidad and Tobago', a copy of which was presented to Mr. Chin; and the soft launch of the Trinidad and Tobago Travel App.

The Travel App, a joint initiative between the TDC and Smart Channel, the developers of the app, comes preloaded on all Samsung Smart TVs and can be downloaded on to smart devices from the Google and Apple stores. The app presents an opportunity for destination Trinidad and Tobago and its stakeholders to promote new offers, feature hotels and sites and to update destination information.

Trinidad and Tobago also presented one of the most energetic and culturally rich displays through both traditional dance and music, mesmerizing onlookers while providing an authentic cultural experience and a small taste of what both islands have to offer.

The leading global event for the travel industry, WTM is a vibrant business-to-business event presenting a diverse range of destinations and tourism industry sectors to travel professionals based in the United Kingdom and around the world. The event is a unique opportunity for members of the global travel trade to meet, network, negotiate and conduct business and Trinidad and Tobago is making full use of this platform to move its destination marketing initiatives to the next level.

http://www.tdc.co.tt/media/?id=pr279

Pictured: (From top) TDC representative engaging with a visitor at the stand; Avion Hercules, Marketing Manager, Tobago House of Assembly - Division of Tourism and Transportation introduces the new tourism brochures; The Trinidad and Tobago Delegations conducting meetings with potential investors and stakeholders; and Brian Lara, Sport and Tourism Brand Ambassador signs mini bats for WTM visitor. **Photos: Mr. Bry Patrickson**

CULTURE & TOURISM

SPORTT MAKES INROADS AT WORLD TRAVEL MARKET

At Left: Ms. Chantal Ross, former T&T national swimmer, now Physical Education and Sport Officer with the Ministry of Sport, Mr. Tom Daley, Olympic bronze medalist for Great Britian, Ms. Natasha Nunez, SporTT and Mr. Kyron Serette, SporTT at the London Aquatic Centre. **Photo: guardian.co.tt**

In an effort to bring more athletes and fans to our shores, the Sport Company of T&T (SporTT) sent two officials to the recently held World Travel Market in London.

A mission from T&T organised by the Ministry of Tourism left these shores for the event and CEO of SporTT, Adrian Raymond saw it as an opportunity to advertise this country's sports facilities, as well as gain valuable information on operating systems for the mega facilities currently under construction.

Representing SporTT were Kyron Serette and Natasha Nunez. Serette speaking on the Sports Drive on Heritage Radio said: "This was a fantastic opportunity for us to take part in the World Travel Market. What we found is that people normally view us here in the Caribbean as just a holiday destination but we were able to get to officials from many of the participating countries to let them know that we have a lot to offer."

Nunez who is a communications officer at SporTT said: "A number of them were surprised to know that we have these great facilities on hand. Now teams can come here for camps ahead of major world events and this is what we are focussing on. So it is not just about having teams coming here for competitions.

"We have world class facilities under construction at the moment and are due to be completed soon.

"Sporting associations around the world can now send their teams to our country and in addition to having great weather for training, they can also enjoy the wonderful facilities and the added on is of course our lovely beaches. The people in our country are also warm and open and this is something we need to allow them to know as well."

Both Nunez and Serette also took the opportunity to move away from the proceedings of the World Travel Market and visit many places of interest, in terms of sport development.

According to Serette: "We visited SPORT England and whilst there, we were able to get very valuable information in terms of sport development and facility management.

"We have the Aquatic Centre, the Cycling Velodrome, the Tennis Centre and many other smaller facilities that can be used by international athletes. We were able to bring back information that could be used to enhance the facilties.

"For instance, when we visited the English Cycling Centre we noticed simple things that we did not know, like making sure the doors to the facility opened outwards.

"By doing this the cyclists are not affected by the air moving in and out of the building. Then there are other aspects of design that might be costly right now but is something we can implement as we go along."

Nunez was particularly impressed with the Swimming arena in London, saying: "They had adjustable floors in their diving pools and practice pools, so they could have easily varied the depth of the pool. We were lucky to witness these things because now we can assist by giving this information to our technical people."

Serette ended by saying that all this information gained could come to nothing with follow up and they have since been in contact with all the officials they met since their arrival home and they have promised to open bi-lateral communication for all concerned.

http://www.guardian.co.tt/sport/2014-11-19/sportt-makes-inroads-world-market

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STARS HELP LAUNCH TOBAGO SPORTS FIRST

TOP PREMIER LEAGUE STARS GEAR UP FOR BRITISH AIRWAYS TOBAGO FOOTBALL LEGENDS CHALLENGE

Above: Football Legends with Ms. Tracy Davidson-Celestine, Tobago's Secretary for Tourism and Transportation; **Top right:** Ian Wright with birthday boy Dwight Yorke and John Arnold; **Bottom right**: Ian Wright and Dwight Yorke. **Photos: Mr. Bry Patrickson**

Some of the most popular footballers to play in the Premier League gathered Tuesday November 4th to celebrate the launch of a new football tournament to be hosted in the beautiful Caribbean island of Tobago June 15th-22nd, 2015.

Former Manchester United star and Tobago native Dwight Yorke led a posse of top names including Ian Wright, Paul Davis, David Howells, Ruel Fox, Sean Davis, Paul Hall, Luke Young, Iain Dowie and Mitchell Thomas at the launch of the British Airways Tobago Football Legends Challenge at the Union Street Café in London.

"Today's launch is all about giving visitors from the UK and Europe the chance to come and see football Tobago-style," said Yorke. "As well as mixing with players everyone is familiar with, you will get a chance to relax in one of the most beautiful places on earth, play a little golf and enjoy the unrivalled hospitality offered by the people of Tobago."

The British Airways Tobago Football Legends Challenge kicks off in June 2015 and will see 64 of the best Premier League past players locking horns in Tobago. The fast paced six-a-side tournament has been organised by the Tobago House of Assembly, British Airways, which flies twice weekly to Tobago and the Professional Footballers' Association.

Fans from the UK will be able to rub shoulders with the stars on BA's flights to Tobago ahead of the tournament. "We are excited to host this prestigious event and strengthen our long standing relationship with our friends in the UK and Europe," said Tracy Davidson-Celestine, Tobago's Secretary for Tourism and Transportation. "Football might have been invented in the UK but I can promise you that we have a very special brand of fun-filled sporting excitement and natural beauty that makes for a unique visitor experience."

Old rivalries will be reignited, said Yorke and other officials at the launch. Players from Chelsea, Manchester United, Arsenal, Tottenham, Everton and Liverpool are expected to face-off against All Star line-ups from the PFA and the Caribbean.

"We can't wait to be able to bring this fantastic event to Tobago next June," said Bobby Barnes, Deputy Chief Executive-Professional Footballers' Association. "We are sure there will be a few old scores to settle as none of the lads have lost that competitive edge. We'll just have to make sure they take it easy on the rum punch!"

British Airways is the tournament's official airline and has played a key role in bringing the event to Tobago. Colm Lacy, British Airways' head of commercial, Gatwick, said: "We're thrilled to be sponsoring the tournament, and we're really excited to be able to say that as of next summer, we will be increasing our services to Tobago from one per week to two."

The event will coincide with a week of sporting activities, including the Dwight Yorke Celebrity Golf Day on19th June.

CULTURE & TOURISM

AN EVENING WITH BRIAN LARA AND DWIGHT YORKE

Above: Brian Lara and Dwight Yorke pose for photos, **Below:** Brian Lara delivering a short address with Dwight Yorke, **At bottom**: Brian Lara autographs a souvenir cricket bat for Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner. **Photo: Ottis/Trini in London, Lawson Lovell**

On Wednesday 5th November 2014, the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission hosted an 'Evening with Trinidad and Tobago Brand, Sport and Tourism Ambassadors- Brian Lara and Dwight Yorke' as one of the Tourism Development Company's (TDC) new initiatives of World Travel Market 2014.

This initiative was supported by the Ministry of Tourism and the Tobago House of Assembly and provided an opportunity for the key stakeholders of the WTM Trinidad and Tobago tourism contingent to engage with the Diaspora and business - investment community in London.

Representing the Tobago House of Assembly, Ms. Avion Hercules, Marketing Manager of the Division of Tourism and Transportation brought greetings on behalf of the Deputy Chief Secretary and Secretary of Tourism and Transportation. Ms. Hercules informed the Diaspora of the upcoming BA Football Legends Challenge scheduled to take place in Tobago from 15th - 22nd June 2015.

Bringing greetings from the Tourism Development Company, Mr. Keith Chin, CEO, challenged the Diaspora to become brand and tourism ambassadors for Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Chin also a member of the INVESTT Board of Directors took the opportunity to also address the business investors present advising on the opportunities available. He stated 'Trinidad and Tobago is open and ready for investment'.

Mrs. Samdai Rampersad,

Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism brought greetings on behalf of the Minister and Ministry. Mrs. Rampersad encouraged the Diaspora to return on vacation with their children and grand children and support the hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfasts entities across the islands, booking tours and experiencing the islands from the view point of a tourist.

The host of the evening, Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner, acknowledged the good work of our current sport ambassadors recapping their achievement and glories and reflecting on Hasley Crawford and other sport ambassadors who preceded them.

To the delight of the audience the brand, tourism and sport ambassadors joined into the ceremony each presenting on their views of tourism and sport for Trinidad and Tobago. Ambassador Lara stated that only in unifying our Trinidad and Tobago products and presenting one strong image of our offerings would drive the interest and win the hearts of the travelling public. He stated that we may not have the best of any one thing but the combination of our offerings of culture, cuisine, ecology, natural beauty and industry, Trinidad and Tobago is well positioned to attract the tourist and investor alike. Ambassador Yorke spoke about his commitment to promoting Trinidad and Tobago and the need for fellow citizens of Trinidad and Tobago to become committed to promoting Tobago and Trinidad tourism products and be proud brand ambassadors for the Nation.

The evening allowed for the engaging and fraternising with Brian and Dwight. The enthusiasm could be felt across the room as bats and balls were signed with some guests bringing along books, old newspaper clippings and photographs they saved and recent publications highlighting the Ambassadors to be autographed.

The live rhythm of the steel pan paired with the Tessa drums and the scents of local cuisine and sorrel juice took the evening to a close.

The Acting High Commissioner stated, 'This was indeed a great initiative of the TDC and the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission was indeed honoured to be the host'.

Top left: Ms. Avion Hercules, Marketing Manager of the Division of Tourism and Transportation, THA; **Top Right:** Mrs. Samdai Rampersad, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, **Bottom left:** Mr. Umesh Rampersad, Chairman, Tourism Development Company (TDC) with Mr. Keith Chin, Chief Executive Officer; **Bottom right:** Everald "Gally" Cummings, former T&T National Footballer (1968-1976) and Coach of the T&T National Football team a.k.a. "Strike Squad" for 1990 FIFA World Cup speaks with Dwight Yorke. **Photo: Lawson Lovell, Brian Quaver Photography**

Connecting
the world at TIC 2015

The Trade and Investment Convention, the flagship event of the TTMA, in its 16th year, continues to be the largest structured business-networking event in the region.

TIC takes place at the crossroads of the Americas, Trinidad and Tobago, and leverages this nation's strengths as a geographic hub, the region's financial capital, and the largest economy in the Caribbean. TIC therefore, is ideally positioned as a gateway to new business opportunities.

Over 200 local and international exhibitors and over 6000 local and international buyers will converge at the Centre of Excellence, Macoya, July 8-11. TIC 2015 focuses on bridging the gap between Trinidad and Tobago, Latin America and the world.

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T&T LEADS THE REGION ON SYMPOSIUM IN TOUR GUIDING SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Tourism Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (TDC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism (MOT) hosted its Inaugural Tourism Conference on November 18, 2014 titled: Tourism Tour Guiding Safety and Security Protocol Symposium, the first of its kind in the region at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre.

Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Tourism, Senator the Honourable Gerald Hadeed, delivered the feature address at the symposium and re-iterated government's support for creating a safe environment for visitors and locals as well as the enhancement and development of the country's community tourism product.

Commenting on the inaugural symposium, TDC's Chief Executive Officer Keith Chin said, "We at the TDC recognise that visitor safety and security has become a critical factor in the decision making process for visitors when choosing an international destination. " He further added that, "This symposium gives our tour guides and other stakeholders the opportunity to learn best practice in the area of safety and security and adopt and adapt new measures to their business operations."

Among the highlights of the event which included the official launch of the website of the Trinidad and Tobago Tour Guide Association (TTTGA) which can be accessed at www.tourguidestt.com, were dynamic presentations from representatives of the Ministry of National Security, the Caribbean Public Health Agency and the Organisation of American States which outlined strategies for enhancing the safety at tourist sites, attractions, trails and access routes, as well as policies aimed at minimizing the potential threats of infectious diseases to visitors.

The symposium, an initiative of the Caribbean Small Tourism Enterprises Unit (STEP) was a direct result of the Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building and Strategic Plan project aimed at improving the standard of operations and interactions within the tourism industry of small and medium enterprises of which the Trinidad and Tobago Tour Guide Association is now in its final stages.

Many of the businesses in the tourism industry are micro, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which include tour operators, tour guides and small accommodation owners. The TDC, through its Caribbean Small Tourism Enterprises project (STEP) has been focusing on industry relevant training and capacity building initiatives for SMEs like tour operators, tour guides and transport service providers with a view to improving their skill set.

STEP, is now a flagship and regionally recognised project of the TDC offering a comprehensive approach to encouraging high performance, profitability, healthy competition and sustainability for small tourism operators.

For more information on the symposium, STEP or to access its training initiatives contact Belinda Charles, Business Enhancement Facilitation Specialist at bcharles@tdc.co.tt.

SAGA SAPPHIRE OPENED TRINIDAD'S CRUISE SEASON

Pictured: Saga Sapparie. **Photo TDC Ltd.**

November 13, signalled the opening of the 2014/ 2015 Cruise season for Trinidad with the arrival of Saga Sapphire which brought just over 600 passengers to the Port of Port of Spain.

In light of the prevailing global health concerns, Saga Cruises, the parent company of the Saga Sapphire, adopted a zero tolerance approach to persons boarding the ship and enforced all health regulations, as ascribed to by the World Health Organisation and the Cruise Lines International Association, with a view to safeguarding crew, passengers and locals at ports of disembarkation.

Officials of the Port Authority at the Port of Port of Spain worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Health, the Tourism Development Company Limited (TDC) and other key tourism stakeholders to ensure all protocols were in place for the arrival of the Saga Sapphire. Once the ship entered Trinidad and Tobago's waters, the vessel had to meet pratique requirements, or pre-arrival clearance, in compliance with international health regulations.

As is customary, disembarking passengers were serenaded by the melodies of steelpan music and treated to an exciting cultural display featuring traditional Carnival characters and costumed dancers performing to the infectious sounds of calypso and soca music.

On the quayside, passengers had the opportunity to view and photograph the work of local designer and Carnival bandleader Brian Mac Farlane including depictions of local icons, sites and attractions among replicas of Trinidad's distinct gingerbread houses.

CULTURE & TOURISM

ARE YOU PLANNING YOUR EASTER VACATION... ? WHAT ABOUT SNORKELLING IN TOBAGO!

www.tobagoscubadiving.com

From colourful reef fish and the mighty manta ray to beautiful corals and curious crustaceans, Tobago has a rich variety of marine life which is just waiting to be discovered.

It is no surprise then that the island has been named as the second best place in the Caribbean for snorkelling by USA Today. The best snorkelling sites are along Tobago's Caribbean Sea coastline.

Store Bay: Kariwak Reef starts straight off the beach on the left hand-side. The easy access and the general lack of current here makes it an easy place to snorkel, especially if you are a beginner. The gently sloping reef, which gets deeper the further out you swim, offers an array of hard and soft corals and marine life. Here you can expect to see reef fish, such as parrotfish, damselfish, butterflyfish, creole wrasse and goatfish feeding on the sand. Banded coral shrimp and small Caribbean spiny lobster can also be seen; the occasional southern stingray or spotted eagle ray may also fly by.

Buccoo Reef: This reef is only accessible by glass bottom boat, and there are plenty of operators who regularly make the trip from Store Bay throughout the day. Many of them also supply snorkelling equipment. This trip gives snorkellers and non-snorkellers alike the opportunity to catch a glimpse of Tobago's underwater world. There is a chance to spot an array of Caribbean fish including French angelfish, bigeyes, sergeant majors, trunkfish and queen angelfish.

Mount Irvine: The best spot to snorkel here is around the rocks on the edge of the Mt. Irvine Bay Hotel beach. The site is accessible straight off the beach. Here there are gobies, blue tang, bluehead wrasse and harlequin bass. Smaller southern stingray can occasionally be spotted, as well as manta rays.

For those who are competent swimmers and snorkellers, Dutchman's Reef in the middle of the bay offers the opportunity to see some of Tobago's maritime history; the remains of 17th century canons are believed to be part of the Dutch East India Company fleet which are thought to have run aground here.

Arnos Vale: This reef is of boulders covered in hard and soft coral; The best way to visit the site is via boat. You can expect to see a myriad of marine life here including spotlight parrotfish, bluestripped grunts, trunkfish, sanddivers, filefish and the mesmerising juvenile spotted drum. Larger pelagics, such as barracuda, are also seen here. Look in the hard coral, especially the brain coral for glimpses of secretary blennies, which burrow into it to make their home. You may even get the chance to glimpse a hawksbill turtle or a spotted eagle ray.

Cotton Bay: This site is only accessible by boat and there are many operators who offer trips, including Island Girl (www.sailtobago.com). Most of them also provide snorkelling equipment. Once you don your mask and snorkel, you can start your adventure. Look out for blue and brown chromis, sharknose gobies, fairy basslets and cardinalfish. Occasionally, pods of dolphins can be spotted breaching the waves; while snorkelling you may hear the clicks and whistle-like sounds they use to communicate. Turtles can also be seen here, as well as rays.

Castara: Head to Little Bay where the reef starts just a short distance from the beach. Among the soft and hard corals you can spot grunts, doctorfish, cowfish, graysbys, sharpnose puffers, highhats, sanddivers, trunkfish and filefish. Green and black and white spotted moray eels can also be seen in the crevices or beneath barrel sponges. Small hawksbill turtles can often be found sitting on the reef munching on sponges – their favourite food. Look in the sand for yellowhead jawfish, which sway vertically in the gentle current.

Englishman's Bay: The reef here is located on the right of the bay, and is excellent for snorkelling. Gently slopping and made up of coral heads and large boulders, it has plenty of overhangs and holes where you

At top: A group of snorkellers discovering Tobago's underwater world; **Above:** a Hawksbill Turtle in Cotton Bay, Tobago

can spot Caribbean spiny lobsters, arrowhead crabs, cleaner shrimp, moray eels and even the occasional octopus. Large shoals of grunts, creole wrasse and snapper often school here in search of food. On the sandy bottom of the reef look out for southern stingrays.

Lover's Bay, Charlotteville: Access to the site is only by boat (which you can hire from the village) or by stand-up paddle board, which gives you the chance to take in the stunning scenery. For details, contact Stand-Up Paddle Tobago at Radical Sports at Pigeon Point or visit www.standuppaddletobago.com. This secluded bay is ideal for beginner snorkellers, and attracts a rich variety of marine life. Yellow and blue coloured queen angelfish, jeuvenille spotlight parrotfish, barred hamlets and foureye butterfly fish can be spotted among the coral. You may be lucky enough to glimpse a small hawksbill turtle.

Angel Reef: Located at Speyside, Angel Reef is located just below Ian Fleming's former holiday home at Goat Island. The site boasts healthy sponges and corals and attracts large shoals of creole wrasse, grunts, snappers and chromis. The reef has many cleaning stations along it. Look for sharpnose gobies and the scarlet cleaning shrimps as they tend to Tobago's fishlife. While snorkelling, look out into the blue, where there is a chance to spot larger pelagics like barracuda, groupers and nurse sharks. The graceful manta ray can also be glimpsed here, flying through the water. The reef can be accessed by glass bottom boat from the Blue Waters Inn. Trips are usually twice a day.

For the latest offers and deals or to plan or book your holiday go to the Tobago Hotel and Tourism Association's website at www.tobagohoteltourism.com or phone: 868 639 9543.

"Together, Getting Tobago Tourism Right!"

Pictured (from top): French Angelfish in Angel Reef, Tobago; a couple uses stand-up paddle boards to reach the reef in Tobago. **Photos courtesy Tobago Hotel and Tourism Association**

VIRGIN AIRLINES RETURNING TO TOBAGO IN 2015

Pictured: Virgin atlantic flight arriving at A.N.R Robinson International Airport in Tobago. **Photo:** www.palmhaven.com

Virgin Holidays and Virgin Atlantic will soon be returning to Tobago, less than a year after news broke that the major airline was withdrawing its direct service from London.

The new Virgin flights will return to Tobago next spring, in time for the popular summer 2015 tourist arrivals season. The news will provide a boost for the destination, which will also see an increase by other airlines from Europe and coincides with a range of upgrades, extensions and hotel openings.

Virgin's restored summer service flights are expected to begin once weekly on Sunday, March 29th 2015, followed by twice weekly flights from October 2015, on Tuesdays and Saturdays. In an effort to make the route cost effective, the flights will be shared with St. Lucia.

The return of Virgin comes after rival Monarch Airlines took a strategic decision to stop making long haul flights across the Atlantic. It also coincides with strong improvements in product and service on the Island.

"We're delighted to see this service return to Tobago, which we expect to be an attractive draw and positive addition to our Caribbean programme," said Gaizka Fraser, Product Services Director for Virgin Holidays. "Our executives will be visiting Tobago shortly to ensure that everything goes to plan and Virgin Holidays customers get the best Tobago has to offer."

Over the past 12 months Tobago has sought to reposition the destination, initiating a bold new advertising, marketing and promotions campaign, with stronger cohesive messaging across all key source markets. Training and educational programmes have also helped shift the focus to more than just sun, sand and sea, but selling 'Tobago authentic experiences'.

FEATURE

INCREASE IN WINTER FLIGHT SERVICES

A reported growth in international visitor numbers, increased flight capacity, significant investment into new product and the launch of the inaugural BA Legends Football Challenge…It's' all go for Tobago in 2015

Tobago has reported a 5% increase in international visitor numbers August 13 / October 14 following the successful implementation of a strong awareness campaign 'Live the Culture Tobago Style' and an impressive commitment by the THA to promote and enhance the islands unique offering. The unspoilt natural beauty, accessible authenticity and individual splendor sets the island apart from other regional destinations. However, as of 27th Oct 2014, BA are running two additional weekly flights to Tobago, whilst significant investment into accommodation upgrades, the launch of a brand new events space that can host up to 5,000 people and news that Tobago will be hosting the BA Legends Football Challenge will contribute to making the island an ever more appealing destination choice in 2015.

Increase in winter flight services

From 27th Oct, BA will offer two flights per week year around to meet the growing demand, ensuring greater flexibility for UK passengers. Holidaymakers will have a far wider itinerary choice and can extend the standard one week stay to a 10 or 11 night holiday; whilst those visiting family can shorten the stay to a four or five night visit.

The increase in flights will make twin centre Caribbean stays far easier and couples looking to travel for their honeymoon will benefit from being able to jet off straight after a weekend wedding.

Accommodation News

Beautiful beachfront resort **Blue Waters Inn** has undergone a one million dollar refurbishment with a complete redesign of the Beachfront shipwreck bar and restaurant where guests can dine al fresco on two new open-air decks and enjoy the fusion cuisine under the direction of talented Chef Richard Cristani, guests amenities have been greatly enhanced and room upgrades will be available to guests as of Nov 2014. www.bluewatersinn.com

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TOBAGO WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL TEAMS FOR 2014 RUGBY 7'S TOURNAMENT

The island of Tobago is looking forward to the Annual Tobago International Rugby 7s Tournament which will take place on 13th & 14th December 2014. Welcoming an impressive line-up of over 25 teams from the UK, USA, Canada and The Netherlands as well as a number of Caribbean islands fighting to compete for their place in the final.

Pictured: The Esher Golden Lions who will be representing the UK. **Photo courtesy AMG Ltd.**

Representing the UK, Surrey's Esher Golden Lions hope to bring the trophy back to UK soil following their defeat in the final last year, whilst two new English female teams, Heidi's Heroes and Swift 7's, are keen newcomers to the two day tournament. Aside from the on-field action, visitors will enjoy a fun filled, culturally rich Tobagonian experience with the promise of carol singing, goat racing, beach parties and plenty of sunshine.

The two day event is supported by plenty of fun filled activities:

- Carol Singing Session and the Teams Welcome Party, Thursday 11th Dec. 2014
- Annual Rugby Goat Racing Festival, Friday 12th Dec. 2014
- Rugby 7's Tournament, 13th - 14th Dec. 2014
- All-day Beach Party, Monday 15th December, Store Bay, 11.00 - 5.00 (Free food, beer and music to participating teams and their supporters)

Competition is set to be fierce with huge trophies and US$5,000 in cash for the winners of the Men's Division and US$10,000 in cash plus trophies and other special prizes for the winners of the Women's Division. Several internationally-renowned referees from Canada, UK and USA will be supporting their regional counterparts to ensure that the best teams win.

The island has competitive advantages in these areas with an exciting calendar of international sporting events such as the Carib Great Race, Tobago Cycling Classics, Dwight Yorke International Golf Tournament and Tobago Rugby 7's. The British Airways Tobago Football Legends Challenge kicks off in June 2015 and will see 64 of the best Premier League past players locking horns in Tobago".

Comments Brian Stollmeyer, Founder and Organiser of the Tobago Rugby 7s event: "We are delighted to welcome 25 teams and their supporters to the island for this year's international tournament – with a record number of teams from the UK in the form of Esher Golden Lions, who are competing for the second time, as well as Heidi's Heroes and Swift 7'S. The aim of this event has been to showcase Rugby talent and promote sports tourism on the beautiful island of Tobago. The 7's tournament provides us with a platform to highlight our facilities as well as the islands natural beauty, to a growing global audience."

John Inverdale, BBC Presenter and Rugby Manager at Esher Rugby Club comments: "Tobago is a wonderful island, and this is a quality rugby tournament that provides a great opportunity to help develop some of our young players. We have a wonderful partnership with the Tobago Division of Tourism, who sponsor our team for the UK tournaments that we participate in during our summer. To be able then to send a team to the Tobago 7's is wonderful opportunity for the club. This year about 20 club supporters are also going along for the Tournament, and to enjoy everything the island offers!"

Nigel Wilson, Niche Marketing Specialist for Tobago Division of Tourism & Transportation comments: "Sport tourism is a key strategy in 2015. The island already hosts many recognized sporting events across areas such as cycling, football, cricket and of course rugby with the forthcoming Tobago's 7's tournament approaching. We are delighted to be hosting a number of international sporting events next year kicking off with the launch of the BA Legends Football Challenge from 15-22 June and In addition, the Dwight Yorke Celebrity Golf Day which will take place on 19 of June as a prelude to the Dwight Yorke International Golf Tournament in 2016. We are extremely excited that the destination will feature firmly on the map for sporting excellence and development and we're optimistic that these exclusive events and our extensive training facilities will help raise the profile as a desirable sporting destination."

For more information on the International Rugby Sevens Tournament visit: www.tobago7s.com

FEATURE

GEOFFERY HOLDER, THE DANCER, CHOREOGRAPHER, COMPOSER, ACTOR, DESIGNER AND PAINTER

Geoffrey Holder, who has died aged 84, was a dancer, choreographer, painter, sculptor, photographer, author and character actor best known as Baron Samedi, the terrifying voodoo priest with the top hat and deep maniacal laugh in the Bond film Live and Let Die (1973).

Though Dr Kananga (played by Yaphet Kotto) was the primary baddy in the film, set on the fictional Caribbean island of San Monique, it was the towering 6ft 6in Trinidadian actor who stole the show. As is often the way with Bond villains, Baron Samedi appears to be indestructible, though unlike such characters as Jaws and Nik Nak, his powers of survival owed much to his being (as the "voodoo god of cemeteries and chief of the legion of the dead") Bond's only supernatural nemesis.

Above: Geoffrey Holder **Photo: Frank Lerner/Metropolitan Opera Company;**

Below: Geoffrey Holder **Photo: Jack Mitchell/Getty Images**

"I create for that innocent little boy in the balcony who has come to the theater for the first time,... "He wants to see magic, so I want to give him magic. He sees things that his father couldn't see."

Geoffrey Holder *(Dance Magazine*, 2010)

Even though Bond (Roger Moore in his first outing in the role) is seen killing him twice (by shooting him at a voodoo ceremony then, when he miraculously rises from the dead, tipping him into a coffin full of poisonous snakes), at the end of the film Samedi is seen draped across the front of the train carrying Bond and his lover Solitaire into a blissful future — and he signs off with his spooky basso profundo cackle.

The actor also played a more important role in the film than any of his counterparts in other Bond movies. Having already established a reputation in New York as a dancer, he choreographed the voodoo dance sequences and the jazz funeral procession in New Orleans.

The youngest of four children, Geoffrey Lamont Holder was born into a prosperous family in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on August 1 1930. His father was a salesman and his elder brother, Boscoe Holder, would also become a successful artist and dancer.

Geoffrey followed in his brother's footsteps, joining his troupe of dancers at the age of seven and holding his first art exhibition at 15. Aged 19 he took over his brother's dance troupe when Boscoe left Trinidad for Europe.

In 1953, encouraged by the dancer and choreographer Agnes de Mille, who had seen him perform at a festival in Puerto Rico, Holder moved to New York, where he made his Broadway debut the next year in House of Flowers, a musical in which he played a Samedi-like character. Two years later he became principal dancer with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, but he continued to act. In 1957 he played Lucky in an all-black Broadway production of Waiting for Godot.

His film career began with All Night Long (1962), a version of Othello set in the London jazz scene. He was William Shakespeare the Tenth, the ruler of a floating island in Doctor Dolittle (1967), though he did not get on with the film's star Rex Harrison or his then wife, Rachel Roberts, whom he considered racist. He was the sorcerer in Woody Allen's Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex* (*But Were Afraid to Ask) (1972).

Two years after Live and Let Die he won Tony awards for his direction and costume designs on the original Broadway production of The Wiz, an all-black version of The Wizard of Oz.

In 1982 he played Punjab in John Huston's film adaptation of the musical Annie, and in 2005 he was the deep-voiced narrator in Tim Burton's film adaptation of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Holder enjoyed success as a painter, exhibiting in museums and galleries in New York and Washington.

He is survived by his wife, Carmen de Lavallade - a dancer, choreographer and actress - and by their son.

Geoffrey Holder, born August 1 1930, died October 5 2014.

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/11154592/Geoffrey-Holder-obituary.html

First Image: Promotional image of the cast of *Live and Let Die (1973)*. From left: Julius Harris, Jane Seymour, Geoffrey Holder, Roger Moore, Yaphet Kotto and Earl Jolly Brown. **Photo: Terry O Neill/ Hulton Archive/ GettyImages.**

Second Image: Geoffery Holder with wife Carmen de Lavallade. **Photo: G. Marshall Willson/ Ebony Collectoin, AP**

Pictured: Former TTT presenter and show host Hazel Ward-Redman, in a Meiling design, on the set of 12 and Under at TTT's Maraval Road studio. **Photo: Mike Smith**

REMEMBERING AUNTY HAZEL ... A PIONEERING TRINIDAD & TOBAGO TV PERSONALITY

by **WAYNE BOWMAN AND SUE-ANN WAYOW**

Many (dare we say countless) Trinbagonian singers, dancers, actors and others in the cultural/entertainment arena owe much of their success to Hazel Ward-Redman, who through her talent competition television series, 12 and Under and Teen Talent, provided platforms for young people to showcase their talents in the performing arts and gain national recognition as well as international acclaim for those who continued to excel following the competition. She exuded joie de vivre and elegance.

Ward-Redman passed away on October 27th, at her home in San Fernando succumbing to pancreatic cancer. She was 79 years old and had lived a full life throughout which Ward-Redman, though a popular television personality, lived away from the limelight keeping her off-camera life very private. Ward-Redman was the epitome of good manners, charity and excellence. She had been ailing with cancer for some time before she died at her home in San Fernando, niece Jillian Hercules said. And although she is best known for her love of children and the arts, Ward-Redman did not have any children of her own.

Before getting into broadcasting, which had been a lifelong dream of hers, Ward-Redman taught English literature and health sciences. She started her broadcast career as an announcer at Rediffusion Trinidad Ltd. She became the first weather anchor on the nightly Panorama news programme when Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT) began broadcasting in 1962.

Viewers instantly fell in love with Ward-Redman because of her lively personality and professionalism. People also liked her signoff tagline, "Whatever the weather, you will weather it better if you wear a smile". She also hosted the very popular live Teen Dance Party show which was very much like the Dick Clarke Show featuring young people dancing to the latest popular music of the day and live performances by top artistes.

Through her 12 and Under and Teen Talent shows Ward-Redman helped to nurture the talents of many young people from singers, poets and dramatists to dancers, instrumentalists and those

engaged in other disciplines. Past winners of these competitions who have gone on to excel include, Denyse Plummer, Kerry Roebuck, Black Sage, Duvonne Stewart, Liam Teague, Marie Cartar, Brian Greene, Neil Latchman and Michael Zephrine.

Ward-Redman for many years also hosted the popular women's magazine show titled Mainly for Women. It ran for 13 years every Monday. The various segments dealt with health, diet, social problems, dance and variety which sought to give a broad picture of Trinidad and Tobago as an emerging young nation.

There was also a segment on the visual arts and seasonally there would be segments dealing Carnival, Divali, Hosay, Eid and of course Christmas. The pianists Felix "Sugar Fingers" Roach and visually challenged Maurice Connor were also popular regulars on her show.

In addition, one of her best-known interviews was that of Aldwyn Roberts, the Lord Kitchener at his Rain-o-Rama home in Diego Martin.

Ward-Redman, who attended St Joseph's Convent, San Fernando, was in 2000 presented with the Hummingbird Medal (Gold) for her contribution to culture. She was in 1997 presented with the Vanguard Award by the National Drama Association and received from the Trinidad and Tobago Publishers and Broadcasters Association (TTPBA) an award for Media Excellence.

Following the cancellation of the talent shows because the station did not have the financial resources to keep them on air, Ward-Redman moved on to a lifestyle magazine series titled, Not For Women Only in which she and her co-host, Richard Pierre, explored a myriad of topics, including the performing arts, art, cuisine and more. She also hosted another cultural programme, titled Centre Stage, which featured intimate live performances by both established and up and coming artistes.

San Fernando Mayor Kazim Hosein told the Express he was "deeply saddened" by the news because Ward-Redman not only contributed a lot to society but she was his neighbour at one point in time.

Above: Hazel Ward-Redman with her friend, advisor and accompanist Maurice Connor (deceased) on the set of Teen Talent. **Photo: Newsday.co.tt.**

Below: Hazel Ward-Redman liked to dance and have fun, as she shows with a colleague at a Radio Trinidad and Rediffusion party in 1983. **Photo: www.guardian.tt**

Calypsonian Rondell Donawa, who is the councillor for Cocoyea/Tarouba and San Fernando's reigning calypso monarch, said although very strict, Ward-Redman was an exemplary woman.

Donawa who was a three-time participant in the 12 and Under competition also said, "I believe she was underrated for her contribution to our society to the young persons who would have performed whether it was drama dancing or singing. Ward-Redman really nurtured that. She was able to bring out the best in us. She was stern yes, but it was always for a greater good. She was humble, down to earth and was an extraordinary human being."

Donawa described Ward-Redman as a stickler for good English and he was proud to be given an opportunity to sing at what used to be an annual Christmas treat organised by Ward-Redman.

Article Edited from ttp://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/TV-icon-dies-at-79-280595732.html

PRIME MINISTER KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR EXTENDS CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF HAZEL WARD-REDMAN

"I am deeply saddened by the passing of this remarkable woman, fondly known to past generations of our nation's children as Aunty Hazel", noted the Prime Minister. "Her impact as media icon, patron of the arts and advocate of women's issues is immeasurable. Many of us warmly remember Aunty Hazel as host of signature programmes on Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT) such as Mainly for Women, Twelve and Under and Teen Talent", continued the Prime Minister.

Mrs Hazel Ward-Redman started her professional career as an English teacher but was able to fulfil her life-long dream as a broadcaster when she became a radio announcer at Radio Trinidad. From radio, Hazel moved on to television to become the first weather forecaster at TTT, our country's first television station. At TTT, Hazel Ward-Redman established herself as the unofficial First Lady of Trinidad Television building a reputation for dedication, excellence and commitment to nurturing the talents of the children of our Nation.

"Her passing leaves a void which will not be easily filled, but her life remains an outstanding testimony to professionalism and selfless service to community and country". "She will be deeply missed", stated the Prime Minister.

NOVEMBER NATIONALS MEETING

Pictured: 1) Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Acting High Commissioner delivered welcome remarks to the natoinals. **2)** Mrs. Keisha Rochford-Hawkins, Second Secretary delivered a presentation on the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission's Consular Affairs and Student Services wtih **(3)** Ms. Claudia Cupid and **(4)** Mr. Martin Baptiste.

*For more information on the High Commission's **Consular Affairs and Student Services** please visit:*
http://tthighcommission.co.uk/index.php/consular/consular-services | http://tthighcommission.co.uk/index.php/consular/student-info

FEATURE

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF STEELBANDS AWARDS 2014

by **MR. ROBBIE JOSEPH**
DIRECTOR OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF STEELBANDS

On a chilly winter evening, the British Association of Steelbands (BAS) hosted their 16th annual awards at the Holiday Inn, in Bloomsbury, London on Saturday 6th December 2014. The warm Caribbean culture that this event generates certainly brought the festive cheer alive on the night.

Kayleigh 'Loud Mouth' Lewis and Joel ' Big Bad Tubbs' Hamilton, MCs on the night certainly added to the already charged atmosphere with their jovial banter where everyone was keen to unveil the identities of the awards recipients.

Pepe Francis MBE - President of BAS delivered his usual speech highlighting the achievements of the association over the year confirming the 2014 Awards theme, 'Celebrating Excellence'. He closed his speech by thanking BAS Executives - Debi Gardner, Robbie Joseph, Eversley Mills, Patricia Munroe, Tara Baptiste and Patrick McKay as well as all attendees, which included Sterling Betancourt MBE, Gerald Forsyth OBE, Keith Diaz, Richard Forteau, Brent Holder MBE and all award recipients on the night.

Keith Diaz, President of Pan Trinbago followed and his speech covered the involvement and support of BAS by Pan Trinbago. These initiatives included Sponsorship of Awards for BAS Competitions, Securing judges for the UK National Panorama and On the Road competitions and facilitating the partnership between the National Carnival Commission of Trinidad and Tobago and the Notting Hill Carnival. These initiatives are unique to the UK and recognize the importance of the UK steel band movement to the global promotion of the steel pan.

Two young ladies celebrating their birthdays – Robbie Greenidge's sister, Annette Greenidge Russell and Sterling Betancourt MBE's sister in law, Elma Betancourt, were presented with big bouquets of flowers on the night.

Pictured: 1) Mr. Pepe Francis, MBE, President of British Association of Steelbands (BAS) delivering his speech to the attendees; **2)** Mr. Hallam Ifill (at left) recieving his Achievement Award from Mr. Leroy Clarke; **3)** UK National Panorama 2014 Champions Real Steel collecting their awards for Best Conventional Steelband, **4)** (From right) Mr. Robbie Joseph, PRO/ Executive of British Association of Steelbands, Mr. Pepe Francis, MBE, President of BAS, Mr. Robbie Greenridge and Mr. Richard Forteau, Secretary of Pan Trinbago. **Photos courtesy BAS**

Internationally renowned pannist, Robbie Greenidge, delivered the live entertainment on the night accompanied by the Engine Room Collective. His repertoire for the evening included Stardust; Talk your Talk, Paradise Garden, Tan Tan, and the Christmas Medley of Madam Jeffrey. He closed his performance with an appropriate rendition of We Wish You a Merry Xmas. Greenidge's excellent musicality left the audience craving more. His dexterity with the instrument was so evident by his relaxed demeanor even when delivering some complicated musical pieces at lightning speed. Greenidge is truly a global steelpan icon and his performance was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.

The following Awards were presented on the night:

Anniversary Awards:
Harlow Steel Band - 10th
North Tyneside Steel Band - 25th
Contrast Steel Orchestra - 40th
London All Stars - 40th

2014 Competitions:
Pan Clash - David Ijaduola
Notting Hill Junior Steelband Panorama - Ebony Steel Band
Jouvert Bomb Competition - London All Stars Steel Orchestra
Best Traditional Steelband - Panecktar Steel Band
Best Conventional Steelband - Real Steel
UK National Panorama Champions - Real Steel (this was their hattrick of wins)

Special Awards:
The Crystal Gail Holder Award - Marlon Hibbert

Ezekiel 'Biggs' Yearwood Award - Lee Nelson
Randolph Baptiste Award - Leroy Clarke
BAS Hall of Fame - Lifetime Achievement Award - Hallam Ifill.

The BAS Hall of Fame is the association's highest accolade. It is presented to an individual who has worked continuously and tirelessly to promote the music, culture and traditions of steelpan. Hallam started playing the steelpan in the late 1940s in Barbados. In 1955, he moved to England and the first thing he did was the make a steepan. His pan-playing friends from Barbados joined him and the Barbados All Stars was formed. He persisted in looking for new and innovative ways to engage young people and to ease the transition he change the name of the band to Rainbow Steel Band. Hallam has supported three generations of youngsters who under his guidance have developed their own passion for pan.

As a result of this individual's determination and vision the band has produced several excellent pan tutors and arrangers who in turn have gone on to teach and inspire other bands not only around the South West of England but across the UK and Europe – bands such as Sounds of Steel, Hammered Steel and of course Real Steel who have achieved success in the UK and abroad.

Hallam has actively been involved in the international steelpan movement for almost 70 years and still looks to the future with great passion and enthusiasm. The steelband he started when he first arrived in the UK is celebrating their 60th anniversary next year is evidence of his commitment to the sector.

Mike Forbes who has been the Awards resident DJ for several years had the attendees dancing to the sweet strains of steelband and soca music into the wee hours of Sunday morning. This event is growing in popularity so much so that it was sold out several weeks before and people are already looking forward to the BAS 2015 Awards.

T&T NATIONALS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT THE HIGH COMMISSION

Pictured: 1-2) Nationals starting the Christmas festivities with traditional Trinidad and Tobago food and drinks prepared and donated by everyone; **3)** Mr. Ansel Wong, Mr. Tedwin Herbert and guest; **4)** Trinidad and Tobago Miss Globe 2014, 3rd place runner up, Zania Linton and Mrs. Joyce Dwarika along with other nationals dance to parang music; **5)** Nationals enjoynig homemade corn soup; **5)** Nationals ready to serve the dessert black cake, sweet bread and fudge. **Photos: Beverley Awonaya**

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